

TO THE  
HONNORABLE  
THE  
COMMONS

OF THE REALME OF  
ENGLAND;

Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

EXPLANATION.

Concerning certaine expedients by vvhich the State  
of England may reape notable advantage.

BALTAZAR GERBIER KNIGHT.



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HUMBLY SHEVVETH



HAT the State may get a present Stocke of TVVO  
HVNDRED THOVSDAND POVNDS, and a  
yearly constant revenew of THREE HVNDRED  
THOVSDAND POVNDS, and procure to the people  
notable advantages and suerty in Estate, Vocation, Trafic  
and Credit; by the speedy erecting of a PROTOCOLL Office, BEN-  
CHES OF LOANE, BENCHE OF PAYMENT, and public SAILE  
OFFICES, &c. At the example of others, vvhether they have beene ere-  
cted vvith generall applause.

THE first, (vvhich is the Protocol Office) vvvas first thought on in the  
first yeare of the raigne of King Henry the IV. of France, first put in  
practise in Picardie and Vermandois; vvhere unconsonable persons  
had accustomed themselves to conceale Morgages, Transactions, Doua-  
ries, and other ACTs; vvhich by all Purchassers vvvere deceived in their  
Bargaines, many good famillies and peaceable persons put to great ve-  
xations, long and chargeable processe; vvhich did often prove the un-  
doing of honourable and honest Famillies, VViddovvs and Orphans  
besides other mischievous accidents.

The Generall States of the united Provinces did at that good example  
establishe the said Office in their Iuridictions, and did erect the same in  
the most sure, regular, compleat method; as the time then did permit;  
did since by the continuance of able States men, reduce the same in the  
best and readiest forme as could be thought on; and so sure for all true  
Proprietaries and Purchassers, as it proved an impossibility for any un-  
conf-

conſſionable perſons to uſe any deceit in their Mortgages, Tranſactions; Dowaries, Saile or Gifts, as they were wont to do, by concealing (as aforeſaid) their deeds, and by paſſing them in ſeverall places, and by unknownn perſons; Nor was it ſince poſſible for parties to be overtaken by any error, nor by ſhortneſſe of time, for that the truth of all proprieties rights and Eſtates in poſſeſſions of Lands and Houſes was Knownn at an inſtant, without their coſt; yet with their conſent, otherwayes not: for that no perſons are permitted to viewv the Records, but with a ticket ſubſcribed by the Proprietary, vvvhich he gives to the party that is minded to purchaſſe (or to put forth his money on a Mortgage) only to viewv the records, vvhen he is fully agreed on Conditions with the ſaid party.

**T**HE Purchaſſer (as ſaid) being himſelfe the diſcoverer of the State of the caſe, vvith eaſe and ſafety freeth himſelfe of all diſputes, quarrels, and proceſſes: VVhich diſcovery is vvith the leaſt diſcredit poſſible to proprietaries; vvhen it was othervvayes by the recoures had to common Roules; beſides that all Actts were but conſuſedly (as in a Cahos) put into the ſaid Common Roules, vvvhich is to ſerve only as for a Journall.

The Records of this PROTOCOEL Office (vvvhich is a particular Record) are in number anſwerable to the Pariſhes in the City and Townn vvherein the Office is erected.

THE Records are great Books of the largeſt paper, conſiſting of 300 leaſes and no more, to thune conſuſion; every leaſe bearing in theefe the name of the Proprietary of Lands and Houſes, in ſuch order as the Houſes ſtand in the City or Townn.

THE leaſe bearing the right vallidity, vvorth of the poceſſion, and any Mortgages thereon, Dowaries, Gifts or any act ſoever.

THE Enroulment is immediatly after the ſigning and ſealing of deeds, and after the entring of ſuch acts in the Common Roules.

IF any Proprietary, Heire, or Purchaſſer obmits the enroullements of his Succeſſion, Gift, Saile, Transport, Mortgage (or any other) his right is voyde, and forfeited to the State.

THIS publicke ſecurity is a bate to all Purchaſſers, and to all perſons deſirous to put forth a ſtock of mony, and to ſecure them againſt all frauds and incombrances.

THE Records are kept in a ſecure place from fier, and others accidents.

THEIR Keepers are payed by yearly Stipends, proportionnable to the number of Books in their menaging.

THE Record Keepers are under the generall Direory of an eminent Officer of the State.

AT the first erection of the said PROTOCOLL Office, all men wvere bound to proceed to the enroulement of A&ts, vvithin the first six vveeksthereof: VVhich brought in a present great Stock of money, Howe  
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money  
crevvs t  
the State  
a Protoc  
Office. proceeding from the rights of Enroulements.

THE Keepers of the Records are accountable (of the rights received for the Entoulments of A&ts) to their generall Director.

THE said rights for all Records of Deeds, Successions in Descendent Assendent or Colaterall Line, Gifts, Saile, Mortgage, or any condition soever are payed by both parties.

THE Generall Director is accountable to the State of the rights received for the said enroulements.

THE rights are in Holland tvo and halfe per cent.

IT is humbly conceived that as the said Office of particullar PROTOCOL or Record, vvould prove of as great benefit to the Subjects, of the State of England, as it doth to the Subjects of other States, that it vvould be of particular use to the State for a porportionnable equality in the Assesments of SVBSIDIES and FIFTHIENS. Rights  
Enroule  
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THAT the rights of Enroulements (though the State should put them but at one per cent payed between the tvo parties) vvould produce a vaste stock of money to the State, and a perpetuall constant revenevv; Howe  
the  
revenue  
of the State  
vvould be  
raised by  
Protoco  
Office. by reason of the often change of Proprietaries, and enroulements of A&ts; at least often change of Proprietaries, of Houses, and the continuall acts for Morgages.

VVhich present stock and yearly revenevv as it vvould accrevv from those that are able, so vvith the more applause, that as aforesaid Proprietaries and Purchassers are secured in their rights and Purchasses; and are thereby freed of all such cost and incombrances as they otherwise are subject unto. Revenev  
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IT is likewise humbly conceived, that the State can augment that stock and yearly revenevv to a large proportion by erecting throughout the Kingdome (for the great benefit of the Subject) BENCHES OF LOANE, PVBLIC SAILE OFFICES, and A BENCH OF PAYMENT: VVhich is demonstrated first, by BENCHES OF LOANE, as followveth, *Viz.*

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**T**H<sup>E</sup> erecting of **BENCHES OF LOANE**, begun some two hundred yeares and above in the Kingdom of Naples, and throughout all Italy; and at their example were established in other parts of most trafic, to serve for releefe of all Negotiants, Tradsmen and all needy persons, of vvh<sup>ar</sup> quality and condition soever: And to free them (and all vvell gouerned States) of the most pernicious practise of Ievvish Benches of Loane, afterwards disguised by the name of Lombards, vvhich proved to be as Cancors in any Common-veal h<sup>e</sup>, for that they did extort of the needy (by a redoublement of Interest upon interest) first, three score & above in the hundred, for the bare Loane; and over and above intollerable fees, for enroulment, and releasement of goods; vvhich in conclusion raised to such a hight, as that Proprietaries did find themselves at last deprived of their maine stock: besides that for the most part for vvant of timly releasement, they lost their goods on pretence of forfeiture; and no such thing in practise (as in the **BENCHES OF LOANE**) to restore to the Ovvn<sup>ers</sup> of the goods any surplus made of the goods vvhen sold.

It being likewise found that those Ievvish-Lombards, did export all the vvealth they had gotten during the many yeares they had practised their unconscionable and most pernicious Vsur<sup>y</sup>.

It moved good and vvise Stats-men to forbid the practise of Lombards, and to banish the Lombard-keepers for ever: Yet that the publick might be supplied, they settled in their place such **BENCHES OF LOANE** as could stand vvith Conscience, and could bee maintained by the undertakers: Allowed them to take the ordinary use according to Statute, and for satisfying the Charges; as for House Rent, Store-Roomes, Stipends of Officers, and all necessities belonging to the said Benches.

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**T**HIS Establishment being found most Iust and Fit, vv<sup>as</sup> recommended to the perpetuall Survey, and Protection, of two eminent persons of Church, and State, and hath continued so ever since, vvithout any interruption, nor any fault found in the Administration.

Like Benches of **LOANE** have been established throughout all the Land of Liege, and the Iuridictions of the Prince Elector of Collen, in Lorraine, Brabant, Flandres, Arthois, Haynault, and throughout all the Iuridictions of the generall States of the Vnited Provinces.

**KING HENRY** the IV of France, and his Son **KING LOUVS** the XIII. (on Remonstrances of horridde abuses committed in that Kingdom by Ievvish Brokers and Lombards) have often denounced their  
pleasure

pleasure by Proclamations for the utter abolishing of that pernicious  
 practice, and instead of it to have **BENCHES OF LOANE** esta-  
 blisht: Yet could not their Iust and Pious intention take effect, though  
 their Edicts have beene enacted in the Parliament of Paris, and the  
 Chamber of Edict: so poverfull the Leagues and Combinations of  
 Broakers hath hether to proved against that course; only the establish-  
 ment of a **BENCH OF LOANE** hath overcome in favour of all  
 Marchants of VVines, and Fish, vvhereby the ovvners receive ready  
 mony from the said Benches of Loane, and so are at an instant dis-  
 patcht, and provided vvith mony to further their affaires. VVhich  
 hath been the maine scope in all States, by the erecting of **BENCHES**  
**OF LOANE**, producing in all parts the readiest and the most easiest  
 releefe to all needy persons. So the generall strengtning, and increase  
 of trading, and a maine remeddy to prevent the suddaine breaking of  
 many good and honnest Marchants; vvhich hath beene found of for-  
 ceable experience in the Iurisdiction of the generall States of the Vni-  
 ted Provinces, vvhere there is not a City nor Tovvne, but is provided  
 vvith a **BENCH OF LOANE**; So are all Market-Tovvnes, and Sea  
 Ports of traffic, vvhere all Marchants and Tradsmen are on a suddaine  
 releued vvith money on all such commodities as they are desirous to  
 have ready money upon, or such commodities as for a time vvill not  
 vvell yeld their price (vvhen by the not putting them off they vvould  
 remaine unprovided of such monyes as they need to satisfie Creditors  
 and Bills of exchange vvhich are dravven on them, and vvhich other-  
 vvayes vvould constraine them to breake, though they have their Store-  
 Houses and Shops vvell stored.) The Husband-man is likewise by  
 the said Benches enabled to keepe his Plovvgh, and to pay his Land-  
 Lord, vvhen othervvayes for vvant of saile of a full quantity of his  
 graines (on fit and ordinary market dayes) he is often constreined to  
 sell his Cattell, and to let the plovving and mannuring of his Land  
 cease; vvhich to prevent as vvell as other inconveniencies incident to  
 the inhabitants of great Cities, Tovvns, and Sea-Ports, the Magistrats  
 have been so carefull off, as that they have taken to their particullar  
 taske, the Administration of divers of the said Benches; as at Amster-  
 dam, Roiterdam, Middelbourgh, Flushing, and at other Sea-Ports; and  
 put the Benches of the other Tovvnes, and Market-Tovvns, to men  
 confided by the State, to vvhich the said men are accountable, for they  
 take all such Benches in ferme.

Bench of  
 Loane be-  
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The sud-  
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 ing of Ma-  
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Magistrats  
 of Tovvns  
 Admini-  
 strators of  
 Benches of  
 Loane.

And as the State cannot be defrauded of its rights (the Administration

tion of the said Benches being (as said) put in the hands of honest able men so the State puts to profit in those BENCHES OF LOANE (kept by the Magistrat) all such Stock of money, as the State thinkes fit to employ.

And thus, as the State of England can (on the true experience of the generall good vvhich the said establishment of BENCHES OF LOANE doth produce in other parts) procure to the Subjects like advantages, and enable them the more to contribute to the public occasions of the State,) strenckten trading in all parts of the Realme, and invite all Forrainers to come to the Sea-Ports vvith their Marchandise (since by the ready course of a BENCHE OF LOANE, the said Forrainers may be soone dispatch, and speedily provide themselves vvith such commodities as the Port and Countrey doth afford) so the said State (being disposed to put a Stock to the erecting, establishing, and administering of BENCHES OF LOANE in the mayne Cities, and Ports of the Kingdome,) vvill make an incredible great gaine, and in a most Iust and Laudable course.

And it is thus understood, that the State vvill raise (vvithout any presure of the Subject) to a great and ample proportion that Stock, vvich vvill accrev from the rights of a PROTOCOLL OFFICE, vvich is the first expedient before mentionned.

AND if the State should thincke fit to employ to the Keeping of BENCHES OF LOANE part of the Stock, vvich vvill accrev from a BENCHE OF PAYMENT, and likvvise of that of the rights of PVBLICK SAILLE OFFICES: The State vvill find (as it is humbly conceived) great facility therein, and that the making use of a Stock, vvich the BENCHE OF PAYMENT vvill produce is grounded on Equity; and vvithout any presure at all to the Subject, VVhich is demonstrated, first concerning a BENCHE OF PAYMENT, as follovveth, Viz.

concerning  
each of  
ment.

A BENCHE OF PAYMENT is Kept by the Magistrats of Towns (as so it is requisite for the publick security) at the example of the BENCHES OF PAYMENT in Italy and in the

the Nederland Provinces under the State generall; It's the public Cassi of all Negotiants, vvho (to free themselves of the continuall receite, and payment of monyes, vvhich taxes so much of their time as proves too prejudiciall in their affaires) Keepe in Banco (as they call it) a constant stock, vvithout any charge or cost to them, thereon to make their Assignations, and to raise their Credit by a public fame, of the considerable stock by them Kept therein.

Experience manifests, that in the said Bench (vvhich is the receptacle of a great Tresor,) remains continually a vaste uslesse stock of monny; of vvhich the Aministrators of the Bench do (vvithout any difficulty) put to gaine a great part, and that they can do it vvithout difficulty, experience hath manifested the same divers times, that though they put forth great part of that Stock vvhich layeth uslesse in the Cassh; yet doth the said Cassh remaine so vvell provided, as that the Negotiants are readdily served, vvhen they call for their monny: | This hath often been made apparent, vvhen Negotiants had been mis-informed by ill grounded brutes (raised by malicious and ignorant persons) concerning the point of Trust, in the Administrators of the Bench, that they resolved to put it to a Triall, by drawing at one time nmay thousands of pounds out of the Bench.

For instance that in Iully 1645, Negotiants did draw in one day out of the Bench of Amsterdam, foure hundred thousand pound sterlingh, and that they vv ere immediatly after as prompt to redouble their stock in the said Bench, being confirmed that they might repose on its infallibility; of vvhich they had no more cause to doubt than on the first day of its erection, vvhich vv as at the example of other like Benches, vvho never failled.

And so it is certain that a great gaine is made by putting as said to profitable use, part of that great stock vvhich lyeth uslesse therein: vvhich vv ill (as is humbly conceived) prouve so vvith a **BENCHE OF PAYMENT** in London, in case the present time prouves not absolutly contrary to its erection; vvhich must have its fondation on a generall disposition in all Negotiants to a vigorous Trading, and to embrace all vvhat may be advantagious unto them.

VVhich consideration (though in season) could not oblige the Proponant to passe in silence the use vvhich the State may make by the erecting of a **BENCHE OF PAYMENT**, since it is likvvise fit to be annex to the aforesaid establishment, tending to the maine releefe and advantage of the Subject, and vvherein the interest of the State is

likewiſe concerned, as it is humbly conceived to bee intereſſed in the erecting of a PVBLICK SAILLE OFFICE, on the grounds and Methode following, *Viz.*

concerning  
ſaille  
Office.

**T**HE great abuſes vvhich have been in public out-cryes and ſaille of goods; in divers places (ſold by Officers in Combination vvith Brokers) vvho devide the profits of goods ſold at under rates, vvhen diſtreſſe constrained the Proprietaries to part from them at ſuch price as thoſe Officers and Brokers vvould put on the ſaid goods, proved ſuch an intollerable grievance to the need, (vvhen their goods ſo ſould, the monny made thereof, the charge deducted, did but ſerve to ſaſiſie their Creditors in part, and the Sergeants, vvhen not a bed left to the poore diſtreſſed to lay on.) That it moved good States men to thinke on a courſe to free the needy from the ſaid grievance, and to remouve from the Pariſh corners the pittypull and lamentable ſpectacle of goods ſould by diſtreſſe. The courſe they choſe vvvas as following, *Viz.*

**T**HEY made choiſe of truſty able men, to make Maſters of public outcry Offices, in every City and Town, and appointed fit Houſes, to ſerve for the publick ſaille of movables: did order that the ſaid Maſters of ſaille Office ſhould afford to all buyers 3 months-time for the payment of ſuch ſommes of monny for the movables bought at the ſaid out-cry; that the buyer might prove a more liberall Chapman; and that conſequently the goods might bee ſould at the beſt rate, to the benefit of the Ovvrer. Ordered the ſaid Maſter to advance to the party, vvhoſe goods vvere ſould, all ſuch ſommes as they had yeelded in their ſaid ſaille; and that he ſhould make it his vvork (for a ſet conſideration) to get his rembourſſement, vvhich hath proved a great advantage and releefe to all needy perſons, and furtherance for the clearing and ſettling the Eſtates of all Mortuary houſes, Heyres, and Executors.

The States Generall of the Nederland Provinces have on the ſaid ſaille Office the vvventieth penny, and do allowv to the Maſter of the Office the like proportion, for vvhich the needy are releevd, and become gainers, ſince othervvays their goods vvould be ſold for halfe their value; by reaſon of the combination of Brokers, and that except the terme of 3 months be allotted to the buyers of goods they are not moved to offer freely for them.

Out of this said Office the State ( as aforesaid )  
vwill increase its revenev, and by imploying like-  
vvise part of vvhat it may render to the Stock for  
the BENCHES OF LOANE; It vvill augment  
its revenev to the proportion as aforesaid.

Considered first, vvhat the PROTOCOLL Office vvill render  
throughout the vvhole Kingdome, both in ready monny and yearly  
revenev, though the State should direct but one per cent, to be recei-  
ved for the rights of enroulements, vvich should be but the halfe of  
the rights taken by the Generall States of the United Provinces.

Secondly, vvhat the use of monny put into the BENCHES OF  
LOANE throughout the vvhole Kingdome vvould come unto, the  
use being no more than according unto Statute, as before said.

Thirdly, vvhat the vvventieth penny of all PVBLICK SAILLE OF-  
FICES throughout the Kingdome vvould yeld.

Fourthly, vvhat the Stock, vvich should bee put to profit of that  
vvich vvill lay usseffe in a BENCHE OF PAYMENT vvill  
produce.

VVhich ( as it is humbly conceived ) vvill not be  
said of the nature of Taxations, lesse to prove pres-  
sures to the Subject, since ( as before said ) they pro-  
duce notable advantages, as first, Viz.

THE PROTOCOLL Office secures all Proprietaries, freeth them of  
charges, of Proceses, Disputes, Quarrels, and Incombrances.

The BENCH OF LOANE; releeses all needy persons (vvhereof the  
most poorest are to a certaine some to be assisted Gratis) strenckneth  
and increaseth Trade, and extirpated all intollerable Vsurry.

The BENCHE OF PAYMENT accommodates all negotiants.

The PVBLICK SAILLE Office releeses and fits all needy persons that  
are constrained to sell their goods.

On all vvich the State vvill receive ( vvhen plea-  
sed to command ) all such further satisfaction as may  
be requisite, besides the service, dutifull attendance  
an application of those that are versd in the said Ex-  
pedients.

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positions

